

# Thank God for sparing so many

**A message from West Liberty Mayor Jim Rupe, Morgan County Judge Executive Tim Conley, and the citizens of West Liberty and Morgan County:**

*Words cannot express our thanks to the caring people, churches and organizations, from far and near, who have rushed to assist us in our hour of greatest need. West Liberty will rebuild and Morgan County will recover, God willing, and your love, your compassion, and your help will never be forgotten.*



Pictured above is the rubble of the home of Licking Valley Courier publisher Earl W. Kinner, which was completely destroyed by the EF-3 tornado that demolished much of downtown West Liberty on March 2. Kinner's grandson, Austin, stands amid the destruction. He is the son of Greg and Karen Kinner, who lived next door to Earl Kinner. Their home was also destroyed. The LVC office across the street was also demolished in the storm. The Kinnners plan to revive the publishing company, which also prints The Wolfe County News and The Elliott County News. At left is the ruins of the West Liberty United Methodist Church on Prestonsburg Street.

### To our readers:

The paper is appearing late this week. The tornado that leveled West Liberty destroyed the Courier Publishing Co., where this and our other two newspapers are normally produced.

The building, all production equipment and vehicles were destroyed, as were the homes and vehicles of Publisher Earl W. Kinner and Production Manager Greg Kinner.

As a consequence of the disaster, local news items and advertising could not be collected and included in this edition.

We plan to set up temporary quarters from which to operate and resume normal production as quickly as humanly possible.

In the meantime, we ask our readers and advertisers to bear with us.

Our thanks is extended to the Kentucky Press Association and its members, particularly The Mt. Sterling Advocate, The Morehead News and The Salyersville Independent, all of which rushed to provide us with assistance.

This week's special edition is being produced at The Mt. Sterling Advocate.

Earl W. Kinner  
Publisher

# Obama declares Ky. major disaster

By Greg Kocher and Tom Eblen—[gkocher1@herald-leader.com](mailto:gkocher1@herald-leader.com)

WEST LIBERTY—President Obama issued a major disaster declaration for Kentucky on Tuesday night, triggering the release of federal funds to help people recover from the storms in the state last week.

The president's action makes federal funding available to businesses and residents in Johnson, Kenton, Laurel, Lawrence, Menifee, Morgan and Pendleton counties. Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, and low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses.

More counties may be added later as damage assessments are completed. For example,

Magoffin County suffered extensive damage throughout Salyersville on Friday.

Earlier Tuesday, residents and business owners re-entered the devastated Morgan County seat for the first time since Friday's deadly tornadoes.

West Liberty was crowded with utility crews restringing lines and working to restore power.

The American Red Cross shelter at Morgan Elementary School closed as families moved to the Assembly of God Church at 558 Ky. 519.

"We're moving now so that families have a better long-term shelter and so that the school can get back to doing what they do best: teaching our kids," said Terry Burkhart, chief executive of the American Red Cross. See **DISASTER**, Page A2

# Tornado destroys West Liberty, surrounding areas

Officials look to future, make plans to rebuild

By Miranda M. Cantrell

Local officials offered assurance and resolution to a devastated public during a series of meetings held Wednesday, March 7, to address the deadly March 2 EF-3 tornado that destroyed West Liberty and several outlying Morgan County communities.

The tornado cut a wide swath across Morgan County and destroyed countless homes, businesses and historical buildings on the heels of an EF-2 twister that touched down in the Mize, Greear and Malone

communities just two days prior.

Authorities said six Morgan Countians are confirmed dead as a result of the tornado, but a complete official casualty list is not available at press time. However, obituary listings for tornado-related deaths in The Lexington Herald-Leader have named the following people among those dead:

- Charles Endicott, age unknown, of Blackwater.
- Betty Sue Endicott, age unknown, of Blackwater.
- Elizabeth Endicott, 72, of

Blackwater.

- Emma Dean Cecil, 87, of Woodsbend.
- Wilmer Cecil, 90, of Woodsbend.
- Alex Clayton Dulen, 86, of Williams Creek.

It is unknown how many people died within city limits at this time. Additional deaths will be documented as information becomes available.

The hardest-hit area was downtown West Liberty, which was reduced to rubble. Most homes and businesses were completely destroyed or

severely damaged, as well as several community landmarks including the 105-year-old courthouse, the depression-era WPA building that houses the community center and the 100-year-old West Liberty United Methodist and Christian churches.

The Licking Valley Courier office was severely damaged but remains standing. Editor/Publisher Earl Kinner and his son, Greg Kinner, lost their homes to the storm, which left Earl Kinner trapped in the rubble of his house for a brief period.

The Wells Hill area also sus-

tained severe damage at Morgan County ARH and at West Liberty Elementary School. Several homes were also destroyed.

The tornado also hit the Ezel, Woodsbend and Williams Creek communities, where heavy destruction was reported.

The most poignant quote heard and read on local, state and national media and social networking outlets was simply, "Town is gone."

Approximately 60 West Liberty survivors were taken to an Elliott County shelter in the early morning hours of

March 3 before they were sent back to the shelter at Morgan Central Elementary School in Greear. They were then based on March 6 to Assembly of Faith Church on Hwy. 519, where they will remain indefinitely. The number of people housed in other shelters throughout Morgan and other counties remains unknown at this time.

Shelters and distribution centers for food, clothing and supplies were established throughout the county. The Red Cross and several other organizations

See **REBUILD**, Page A2





Photos courtesy The Morehead News

Pictured top above, is the front view of the destroyed building that housed the Licking Valley Courier. Pictured directly above is a side view of what's left of the building. It is hoped the back section of the building can be saved.

## DISASTER

Continued from Page A1

Red Cross—Bluegrass Chapter.

About 60 people are staying at the shelter, which will be open until each family has a safe place to stay.

Officials called a community meeting for 2 p.m. Wednesday at Morgan County High School to update residents about restoration efforts, said West Liberty City Council member Phyllis Keeton.

Vehicles must go through a checkpoint to enter the town, which has been cordoned off by Kentucky State Police since Saturday because so many buildings were unstable and so search-and-rescue teams could do their work.

Storm-damaged banks resumed business at remote locations, and they accepted deposits and cash withdrawals of as much as \$500 a day, the state Department of Financial Institutions said.

Kentucky Chief Justice John D. Minton Jr. and Justice Will T. Scott inspected the century-old Morgan County Courthouse and a new justice center under construction.

Vance Mitchell of the state Administrative Office of the Courts said both buildings would probably be considered a total loss.

The old courthouse's clock tower was blown off and smashed to pieces, as was a World War I memorial on the lawn.

"We need to incorporate that old bell" in the rebuilt new justice center, Minton said as he watched a crane lift the bell out of the rubble.

Asked whether he had ever seen such devastation, Scott replied, "In Vietnam. Not in this country."

Morgan Circuit Court Clerk

Donna Pelfrey said official records survived the storm, were secured Saturday and were moved to a building outside of town owned by Morehead State University. The building at 155 University Drive will be the county's temporary judicial center.

State Rep. John Will Stacy, D-West Liberty, said an estimated more than 3,500 structures are damaged, and most of those are a total loss.

The damage was left by a killer tornado that traveled at least 95 miles, including 60 miles through Kentucky and 35 miles into West Virginia, a National Weather Service meteorologist said Tuesday.

The National Weather Service office in Jackson confirmed the official path of the tornado that began in Menifee County and continued through Morgan and Lawrence counties into West Virginia.

The path might have extended an additional 5 to 10 miles into West Virginia, but that has not been confirmed, said Kevin Sullivan, a meteorologist with the weather service office in Jackson.

For a tornado to travel that far "is certainly unprecedented for this part of the country, in the Appalachian region," Sullivan said. "You just don't see those kind of long-lived super cells like that. "But out in the plains they happen a little more frequently. Out in our neck of the woods, you don't see tornado tracks like that."

At its fiercest, the storm was an EF3 tornado, with peak wind speeds estimated at 140 mph and a maximum width of a mile, according to the Web page of the Jackson office.

Land-line telephone service remained out in West Liberty, the Public Service Commission reported. Restoration of telephone ser-

## FEDERAL DISASTER FUNDS

Residents and business owners in Johnson, Kenton, Laurel, Lawrence, Menifee, Morgan and Pendleton counties who suffered losses in last week's storms can begin applying for federal assistance. Register online at [DisasterAssistance.gov](http://DisasterAssistance.gov) or call **800-621-3362** (or **800-462-7585** for the hearing and speech impaired). The numbers will operate from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day until further notice.

vice depends on replacement of destroyed Kentucky Power Inc. poles used by Mountain Telephone for its lines. Cellphone service had returned but in some cases was spotty.

Telephone service has been restored in most of Menifee and Wolfe counties, with the exception of the Frenchburg area, where reconstruction is required, the PSC said.

Volunteers who want to go to affected areas to help must register online at [Kyem.ky.gov/recovery/Pages/VolunteerCoordination.aspx](http://Kyem.ky.gov/recovery/Pages/VolunteerCoordination.aspx), said Army Spec. Katie De La Cruz of the Kentucky Emergency Operations Center in Frankfort.

"The people that want to volunteer, we want their help," she said. "However, we need them to go through the Web site." Unauthorized volunteers were asked to "avoid impacted areas because it could possibly interrupt whatever missions they have going on, and it's just not safe," De La Cruz said.

"Power lines are down, buildings are not stable. We

have people who are trained in these specific situations, and they are doing their jobs. By having people who are not authorized in there, it inhibits those missions and it puts a damper on their safety."

In Frankfort, Stacy, the legislator from West Liberty, thanked the 100-member House and others who came to Morgan and Menifee counties' aid.

Stacy's home in West Liberty was spared, but many others in small communities in Menifee and Morgan counties were not, he said.

"There are probably 30 or 40 families homeless," Stacy said of Menifee County, which he also represents. Three people died in Menifee County, one of whom worked for Stacy at the Frenchburg Pharmacy. Six died in Morgan County. The statewide toll was 22.

"For approximately 21/2 miles, it devastated everything," Stacy said. "In this case, everything means everything. It demolished our hospital. It demolished our health department. It destroyed our existing courthouse. It destroyed our new courthouse that's under construction. It destroyed our county office building. It destroyed every restaurant. It destroyed every business. It destroyed every bank. It destroyed every home in that path."

"That community just no longer exists," Stacy said of West Liberty. "It is beyond your comprehension."

**Reporters Beverly Fortune, Beth Musgrave and Jack Brammer contributed to this story. Greg Kocher: 859-231-3305. Twitter: @HLpublicsafety.**

## REBUILD

Continued from Page A1

and individuals throughout the Kentucky and the United States were dispatched to the area to aid the relief effort spearheaded by local citizens with a fierce desire to help their neighbors.

Countless Morgan Countians have volunteered their time at the shelters and distribution centers by cooking, cleaning, sorting clothes, delivering supplies and offering words of comfort and encouragement to their displaced fellow citizens. The relief effort is chronicled on Facebook, where hundreds of local people posted information regarding donation drives and fundraisers throughout Morgan County and Eastern Kentucky.

Emergency personnel crews including all local fire departments, West Liberty Police Department, Morgan County sheriff and jailer departments, Kentucky State Police, the Kentucky National Guard and several other agencies have worked around the clock since March 2 to search for survivors and the deceased, clear rubble and maintain order in the disaster area.

Local utility crews have also worked frantically to restore electricity, telephone, water, sewer and gas services all over the county with the assistance of volunteer brigades throughout Kentucky.

Judge Executive Tim Conley said during the March 7 meeting at Morgan County Middle School that local officials—including Mayor Jim Rupe and many others who were in attendance—have initiated the process of obtaining federal funding to rebuild West Liberty and other affected areas in Morgan County.

"We are in a mode we have never been in before," Conley said. "Everyone wants their lives back. It is going to take a long time, but Mayor Rupe and I must make sure that we comply fully with application guidelines so we can do this right. We need to get as much assistance as we possibly can."

Conley—who reportedly attempted to pull people into the community center when the storm hit—also addressed the emotional toll the disaster has taken on the county.

"I look into all these faces and I see the love that we all have for each other," Conley said. "I am so proud that we are strong enough to accept this tragedy, because we cannot change it. I don't why this happened to us, but one of these days we will be able to look back and see everything we have accomplished since this disaster."

The judge executive concluded his remarks with a firm resolution to rebuild West Liberty and Morgan County.

"From the ashes we will rise," Conley said. "Brighter days are ahead. West Liberty won't look the same... But it might look even better than before."

Before adjournment, officials relayed information regarding disaster assistance and the temporary locations of businesses, schools and other establishments that were destroyed. The following is a listing of locations and phone numbers mentioned at the meeting and on The Licking Valley Courier Facebook page:

### LOCAL RELIEF FUND INFORMATION

- Anyone who wishes to contribute money to the Morgan County relief effort is should send checks to Morgan County Relief Fund-711, C/O Bank of the Mountains, P.O. Box 309, West Liberty, KY 41472. Make checks payable to Morgan County Christian Social Services with "Morgan County Tornado Disaster" in the memo.

### FEMA INFORMATION

- To apply for Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance, call **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**.

### SCHOOL INFORMATION

- Superintendent of Schools Deatrah Barnett said West Liberty Elementary School will be relocated to the former Boneal factory at Index. Classes at all schools are expected to resume on Monday, March 19.

### BUSINESS & SERVICES INFORMATION

- Circuit Court Clerk Donna Pelfrey's office has relocated to MSU at West Liberty at Index.
- The United States Postal Service is routing mail for West Liberty P.O. boxes through the Campton Post Office. P.O. box deliveries will be made daily 1-3:30 p.m. at the former Go-Go building. For more information call **606-668-6395**.

- Commercial Bank has relocated to Morgan County Public Library. For more information call **743-3195**.

- Bank of the Mountains is operating at its Index and Ezel locations.

- Citizens Bank has relocated to IGA.

- First National Bank is operating at its original location.

- Licking Valley RECC and AEP will both operate out of the LVRECC business office in West Liberty.

- Mountain Telephone's business office lobby in West Liberty is open.

- All pharmacies will be operating at their original locations.

- The offices of Judge Executive Tim Conley and PVA Darby Franklin have relocated to mobile units in the lot behind Commercial Bank near the former Stacy home across from Rite Aid.

- Ison Insurance is located at 365 Riverside Dr. Call **743-4472** for more information.

- Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance has relocated to Hwy. 519 fire Department. For more information call **606-743-3606**.

- Baby's Day Inn Daycare is operating at its original location. For more information call **743-1751**.

- Attorney Chris Frederick's law office has relocated to his home.

- The extension service is housing several displaced farm animals on property the agency recently purchased on Spaws Creek. For more information call **477-9692**.

- The Morgan County ARH emergency room, lab, clinic, x-ray and respiratory facilities are open at the hospital.

- Morgan County ARH Home Health offices are located at Salem Church. Home health equipment is stored at Cougar Corner.

- Kentucky Eye Institute will begin seeing patients in Morehead in the near future. For more information call **743-4111**.

- The Morgan County Water District office has relocated to Rifle Coal.

- County Court Clerk Randy Williams's office has relocated to Rifle Coal.

- Cash Express customers can utilize facilities in Morehead, Jackson, Prestonsburg, Paintsville and Grayson. For more information call **859-533-1884** or **606-362-6434**.

- The dental offices of Drs. Robert L. Henderson and Leigh Ann Gunnell are operating at their original location.

- The Laundry Room is operating at its original location.

- The Morgan County Health Department has relocated to a mobile unit beside the former MSU Center (old bowling alley) on Route 7.

Additional updates will be documented at a later date. More information about local donation drives and fundraisers can be found on The Licking Valley Courier Facebook page.







LEGALS

Continued From Page 3

NOTICE OF SALE  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
MORGAN CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO. 11-CI-00136  
KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION,  
PLAINTIFF  
VS.  
ADA BENTON, DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Morgan Circuit Court, entered on January 25, 2012, in the above styled action, Honorable Robert L. Caummisar, Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court, shall proceed to offer for sale, under the following terms and conditions, at the front door of the Courthouse, West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky, to the highest and best bidder, at public auction, on the **9th day of March, 2012 at or near the hour of 2:40 p.m.**, the following described property, lying and being in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Morgan and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a steel stake at the eastern edge of the Chalmer Benton Road; thence in an Easterly direction for a distance of 115 to a steel stake; thence in a Southerly direction for a distance of 132 feet to a steel stake; thence in a Westerly direction for a distance of 115 feet to a steel stake at the edge of Chalmer Benton Road; thence in a Northerly direction along the right of way of Chalmer Benton Road for a distance of 132 feet to a steel stake at the point of beginning.

Also conveyed herein and made subject to the terms of this Mortgage is the following manufactured home (mobile home) described as: 2005 Cavalier, Model: Engelwood 28460, Serial/VIN No. CV05AL0266358AB, which has been permanently affixed to the real estate described above, and is to be classified as real property and be assessed as such by the county tax assessor's office.

Being the same property conveyed to Ada Benton, unmarried, by deed dated May 13, 2005, of record in Deed Book 201, Page 607, in the Office of the Clerk of Morgan County, Kentucky.

Property Address: 184 Chalmer Benton Road, West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky, 41472

The aforementioned real estate can not be divided without materially impairing its value and shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

In the event that the successful bidder is the Plaintiff to this action, which has been adjudged to have a lien on that particular tract or parcel of real or personal property bid upon, then and in that event, said party shall not be required to make any cash deposit or bond.

If any purchaser at said sale shall fail to immediately make cash payment or execute a bond, then the Commissioner shall declare the next highest bidder the purchaser of the real estate.

Upon default of payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days, the Master Commissioner shall immediately resell the property upon the same terms and conditions set out herein upon proper legal notice. The ten percent (10%) of purchase price paid to the Master Commissioner shall be used to pay the costs of the sale which the purchaser failed to complete.

The hereinabove described real property shall be sold free and clear of the claims, interests, liens and encumbrances of all parties herein, except restrictions and easements appearing of record, in the Morgan County Court Clerk's Office.

The risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale. Possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed.

The purchaser shall be required to purchase fire and extended coverage insurance on any improvements to the real property, from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full to the extent of the Court-appraised value of the improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, with a loss clause payable to the Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court or the Plaintiff herein.

The Defendants, their agents, employees, successors or assigns shall vacate the mortgaged premises immediately upon the confirmation of the Master Commissioner's Sale.

The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed such property for the year 2012 and all subsequent years. This property shall be sold subject to any ad valorem and real property taxes not delinquent as of the date of sale. The attorney of record must furnish the Master Commissioner with a statement that there are no unpaid County and City delinquent taxes or tax liens, and assignments of any such liens, against the property. This statement may be incorporated in the Motion/Proposed Order confirming the Master Commissioner's Report of Sale and directing delivery of deed and disbursement of funds held in escrow for said sale. Upon the receipt of said statement, the Master Commissioner shall pay any delinquent property taxes or tax liens for all years prior to the year of the sale.

Honorable Robert L. Caummisar  
Master Commissioner  
Morgan Circuit Court  
301 West Main Street  
Grayson, Kentucky 41143  
C-2-23-3t  
Pub. Feb. 23, Mar. 1, Mar. 8

NOTICE OF SALE  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
MORGAN CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO. 10-CI-00318  
KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION,  
PLAINTIFF  
VS.

LISA M. BROWN, THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF LISA M. BROWN, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Morgan Circuit Court, entered on October 27, 2011, in the above styled action, Honorable Robert L. Caummisar, Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court, shall proceed to offer for sale, under the following terms and conditions, at the front door of the Courthouse, West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky, to the highest and best bidder, at public auction, on the **9th day of March, 2012 at or near the hour of 2:00 p.m.**, the following described property, lying and being in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Morgan and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a set stake in the corner of the right of way line of Park Hill Blvd. and the property of J. C. Brown; thence running South 120 feet along the right of way line of Park Hill Blvd. to a set stake; thence west, 366 feet with the property of J. C. Brown to a set stake; thence north 141 feet with the property of J. C. Brown to a set stake; thence east, 420 feet to the point of beginning. Being 1 acre more or less.

Also conveyed herein and made subject to the terms of the Mortgage is the following manufactured home (mobile home) described as: 2006 Fleetwood Model: Entertainer #4683A, Serial/VIN Number TNFL527AB30397C41, which has been permanently affixed to the real estate described above, and is to be classified as real property and be assessed as such by the county tax assessors office.

Being the same property conveyed to Lisa M. Brown by Deed dated October 3, 2006 of record in Deed Book 206, Page 589 in the Office of the Clerk of Morgan County, Kentucky.

Property Address: 243 Park Hill Blvd., West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky

The aforementioned real estate can not be divided without materially impairing its value and shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%)

of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

In the event that the successful bidder is the Plaintiff to this action, which has been adjudged to have a lien on that particular tract or parcel of real or personal property bid upon, then and in that event, said party shall not be required to make any cash deposit or bond.

If any purchaser at said sale shall fail to immediately make cash payment or execute a bond, then the Commissioner shall declare the next highest bidder the purchaser of the real estate.

Upon default of payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days, the Master Commissioner shall immediately resell the property upon the same terms and conditions set out herein upon proper legal notice. The ten percent (10%) of purchase price paid to the Master Commissioner shall be used to pay the costs of the sale which the purchaser failed to complete.

The hereinabove described real property shall be sold free and clear of the claims, interests, liens and encumbrances of all parties herein, except restrictions and easements appearing of record, in the Morgan County Court Clerk's Office.

The risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale. Possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed.

The purchaser shall be required to purchase fire and extended coverage insurance on any improvements to the real property, from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full to the extent of the Court-appraised value of the improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, with a loss clause payable to the Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court or the Plaintiff herein.

The Defendants, their agents, employees, successors or assigns shall vacate the mortgaged premises immediately upon the confirmation of the Master Commissioner's Sale.

The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed such property for the year 2012 and all subsequent years. This property shall be sold subject to any ad valorem and real property taxes not delinquent as of the date of sale. The attorney of record must furnish the Master Commissioner with a statement that there are no unpaid County and City delinquent taxes or tax liens, and assignments of any such liens, against the property. This statement may be incorporated in the Motion/Proposed Order confirming the Master Commissioner's Report of Sale and directing delivery of deed and disbursement of funds held in escrow for said sale. Upon the receipt of said statement, the Master Commissioner shall pay any delinquent property taxes or tax liens for all years prior to the year of the sale.

Honorable Robert L. Caummisar  
Master Commissioner  
Morgan Circuit Court  
301 West Main Street  
Grayson, Kentucky 41143  
C-2-23-3t  
Pub. Feb. 23, Mar. 1, Mar. 8

NOTICE OF SALE  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
MORGAN CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO. 11-CI-00176  
COMMONWEALTH CREDIT UNION, INC.,  
PLAINTIFF  
VS.

ROY D. BUCKLER, A/K/A ROY BUCKLER; TAMMY LYNN GRAHAM, F/K/A TAMMY BUCKLER, F/K/A TAMMIE BUCKLER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ROY D. BUCKLER, A/K/A ROY BUCKLER; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TAMMY LYNN GRAHAM, F/K/A TAMMY BUCKLER, F/K/A TAMMIE BUCKLER; AND COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF MORGAN, DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Morgan Circuit Court, entered on January 26, 2012, in the above styled action, Honorable Robert

L. Caummisar, Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court, shall proceed to offer for sale, under the following terms and conditions, at the front door of the Courthouse, West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky, to the highest and best bidder, at public auction, on the **9th day of March, 2012 at or near the hour of 2:30 p.m.**, the following described property, lying and being in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Morgan and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

BEGINNING at a stake on the State Right of Way of 519 running in a westerly direction with the Ollie Ferguson line up the hill to a marked tree; thence in a Northerly direction with the Jimmy Lewis line across a gravel lane two feet on the far side; thence in an Easterly direction with the gravel line to the bottom of the hill to a stake to the State Right of Way on 519; thence in a Southerly direction back to the point of beginning, containing 12 acres more or less.

RESERVATION: The property is conveyed subject to the reservation of remote Grantors, Timothy Conley and Tammy Conley, his wife, reserving the right of ingress and egress to use the road through the subject property in order to get to their property. Said reservation was reserved in remote source of title deed dated May 6, 1997, recorded in Deed Book 175, Page 197, Morgan County Records.

Make: FRIE  
Model: CROWNRE  
Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): MY9537191ABW

This manufactured home is permanently affixed and attached to the land and is part of the real property.

Being the same property conveyed to Roy Buckler and Tammie Buckler, a/k/a Tammy Buckler, his wife, by Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., a Tennessee Corporation, by deed dated February 9, 2002, of record in Deed Book 190, Page 671, in the Office of the Morgan County Clerk. See also Deed of Confirmation from Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., a Tennessee corporation, to Roy Buckler and Tammie Buckler, his wife, dated November 27, 2002, and filed on February 6, 2003, of record in Deed Book 193, Page 753, in the Office aforesaid.

The aforementioned real estate can not be divided without materially impairing its value and shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

In the event that the successful bidder is the Plaintiff to this action, which has been adjudged to have a lien on that particular tract or parcel of real or personal property bid upon, then and in that event, said party shall not be required to make any cash deposit or bond.

If any purchaser at said sale shall fail to immediately make cash payment or execute a bond, then the Commissioner shall declare the next highest bidder the purchaser of the real estate.

Upon default of payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days, the Master Commissioner shall immediately resell the property upon the same terms and conditions set out herein upon proper legal notice. The ten percent (10%) of purchase price paid to the Master Commissioner shall be used to pay the costs of the sale which the purchaser failed to complete.

The hereinabove described real property shall be sold free and clear of the claims, interests, liens and encumbrances of all parties herein, except restrictions and easements appearing of record, in the Morgan County Court Clerk's Office.

The risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale. Possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed.

The purchaser shall be required to purchase fire and extended coverage insurance on any improvements to the real property, from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full to the extent of the Court-appraised value of the improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, with a loss clause payable to the Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court or the Plaintiff herein.

The Defendants, their agents, employees, successors or assigns shall vacate the mortgaged premises immediately upon the confirmation of the Master Commissioner's Sale.

The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed such property for the year 2012 and all subsequent years. This property shall be sold subject to any ad valorem and real property taxes not delinquent as of the date of sale. The attorney of record must furnish the Master Commissioner with a statement that there are no unpaid County and City delinquent taxes or tax liens, and assignments of any such liens, against the property. This statement may be incorporated in the Motion/Proposed Order confirming the Master Commissioner's Report of Sale and directing delivery of deed and disbursement of funds held in escrow for said sale. Upon the receipt of said statement, the Master Commissioner shall pay any delinquent property taxes or tax liens for all years prior to the year of the sale.

Honorable Robert L. Caummisar  
Master Commissioner  
Morgan Circuit Court  
301 West Main Street  
Grayson, Kentucky 41143  
C-2-23-3t  
Pub. Feb. 23, Mar. 1, Mar. 8

NOTICE OF SALE  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
MORGAN CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO. 10-CI-00280  
BENEFICIAL KENTUCKY INC., PLAINTIFF  
VS.

PATRICIA A. JUSTICE, A/K/A PATRICIA ANN JUSTICE; LEWIS J. JUSTICE, A/K/A LEWIS JAY JUSTICE; THE UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, BEING THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF PATRICIA A. JUSTICE, A/K/A PATRICIA ANN JUSTICE; THE UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, BEING THE UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF LEWIS J. JUSTICE, A/K/A LEWIS JAY JUSTICE; THE UNKNOWN DEFENDANTS, BEING THE UNKNOWN TENANTS, IF ANY, OF 3743 UPPER SAND LICK ROAD, WEST LIBERTY, KENTUCKY 41472; BRANCH BANKING AND TRUST COMPANY, S/B/M/T MATEWAN BANK, FSB; AND COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF MORGAN, DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Morgan Circuit Court,

entered on January 12, 2012, in the above styled action, Honorable Robert L. Caummisar, Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court, shall proceed to offer for sale, under the following terms and conditions, at the front door of the Courthouse, West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky, to the highest and best bidder, at public auction, on the **9th day of March, 2012 at or near the hour of 2:20 p.m.**, the following described property, lying and being in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Morgan and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

TRACT I  
A certain tract or parcel of land in Morgan County, Kentucky on Upper Sand Lick, and bounded as follows: Beginning at the highway (gravel road) at the property line of Earl Cantrell Junior, thence running with the line of Earl Cantrell, Junior to a set stone; thence continuing with his line to the property line of Ronnie Cantrell to a set stone thence with the line of Ronnie Cantrell to the highway; thence with said highway back to the beginning corner at the line of Earl Cantrell Junior. Containing 5 acres more or less, but to contain all the land described herein.

TRACT II  
The following described tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the State of Kentucky, County of Morgan on the waters of Upper Sand Lick Creek a tributary of Big Sandy River and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at a locust post in the fence row on top of the point at the line of Ralph Cantrell; thence with the fence between the Ralph Cantrell line up the point to the Cambill property line; thence continuing with the fence, the Gambill property line; and the point to the top of the ridge at the old Carl Cantrell line, thence continuing with the fence and the old Carl Cantrell line down the ridge to a steel post; thence continuing with an old fence down the hill to a steel stake at a white oak tree at the edge of the flat; thence with the edge of the flat and old fence row to the point of beginning, containing 10 acres, more or less, and is sold by boundary and not by the acre.

Being a portion of the same property conveyed to Lewis J. Justice and Patricia A. Justice, husband and wife, by Deed dated November 27, 1995, and recorded in Deed Book 170, Page 535, in the Office of the Clerk of the County Clerk of Morgan County, Kentucky.

Property Address: 3743 Upper Sand Lick road, West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky.

The aforementioned real estate can not be divided without materially impairing its value and shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

In the event that the successful bidder is the Plaintiff to this action, which has been adjudged to have a lien on that particular tract or parcel of real or personal property bid upon, then and in that event, said party shall not be required to make any cash deposit or bond.

If any purchaser at said sale shall fail to immediately make cash payment or execute a bond, then the Commissioner shall declare the next highest bidder the purchaser of the real estate.

Upon default of payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days, the Master Commissioner shall immediately resell the property upon the same terms and conditions set out herein upon proper legal notice. The ten percent (10%) of purchase price paid to the Master Commissioner shall be used to pay the costs of the sale which the purchaser failed to complete.

The hereinabove described real property shall be sold free and clear of the claims, interests, liens and encumbrances of all parties herein, except restrictions and easements appearing of record, in the Morgan County Court Clerk's Office.

The risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale. Possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed.

The purchaser shall be required to purchase fire and extended coverage insurance on any improvements to the real property, from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full to the extent of the Court-appraised value of the improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, with a loss clause payable to the Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court or the Plaintiff herein.

The Defendants, their agents, employees, successors or assigns shall vacate the mortgaged premises immediately upon the confirmation of the Master Commissioner's Sale.

The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed such property for the year 2012 and all subsequent years. This property shall be sold subject to any ad valorem and real property taxes not delinquent as of the date of sale. The attorney of record must furnish the Master Commissioner with a statement that there are no unpaid County and City delinquent taxes or tax liens, and assignments of any such liens, against the property. This statement may be incorporated in the Motion/Proposed Order confirming the Master Commissioner's Report of Sale and directing delivery of deed and disbursement of funds held in escrow for said sale. Upon the receipt of said statement, the Master Commissioner shall pay any delinquent property taxes or tax liens for all years prior to the year of the sale.

Honorable Robert L. Caummisar  
Master Commissioner  
Morgan Circuit Court  
301 West Main Street  
Grayson, Kentucky 41143  
C-2-23-3t  
Pub. Feb. 23, Mar. 1, Mar. 8

NOTICE OF SALE  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
MORGAN CIRCUIT COURT  
CASE NO. 11-CI-00147  
FRONTIER HOUSING, INC. PLAINTIFF  
VS.

RAYMOND VANCE; ANGELA VANCE AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL HOUSING SERVICE, DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Morgan Circuit Court, entered on January 25, 2012, in the above styled action, Honorable Robert L. Caummisar, Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court, shall proceed to offer for sale, under the following terms

and conditions, at the front door of the Courthouse, West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky, to the highest and best bidder, at public auction, on the **9th day of March, 2012 at or near the hour of 2:10 p.m.**, the following described property, lying and being in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, County of Morgan and more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

PARCEL 6: A certain parcel of land lying in Morgan County, Kentucky, at the West City Limits of Ezel, and on the South side of U.S. Highway 460, and on the Northwest side of KY Highway 2497, and being Parcel 6 of the subdivision of the Mary Lucille Ratliff property (Deed Book 107, Page 602), and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a 1/2" rebar with 1-3/4" cap marked "Property corner, M. R. Stull L.S. 2993" (set this survey) in the South right-of-way line of U.S. 460 (DB 54, P. 156), thirty (30) feet from the center of the road, and being a corner to the property of Sadie M. (Hays) Hankins (DB 112, P. 287); thence leaving Hankins property and with the U.S. 460 right-of-way S. 56° 06' 06" E. 126.45 feet to a "rebar with a 1-3/4" cap marked "Property corner, M. R. Stull L.S. 2993" (set this survey) in said right-of-way; thence continuing with the U.S. 460 right-of-way S. 57° 41' 39" E. 211.61 feet to a "rebar with 1-3/4" cap marked "Property corner, M. R. Stull L.S. 2993" (set this survey) in said right-of-way; thence continuing the same line with the U.S. 460 right-of-way S. 57° 41' 39" E. 25.00 feet to a point in the center of a small branch in the U.S. 460 right-of-way, thirty feet (30') from the center of the road, at the South side of a concrete culvert, and corner to parcel 3 of the Mary Lou Ratliff Property Subdivision; thence leaving the road and up the branch with its center and Parcel 3 of the Ratliff Property Subdivision for five (5) calls:

- 1) S. 85° 20' 33" W. 73.13 feet;
- 2) S. 84° 12' 39" W. 163.98 feet;
- 3) N. 66° 01' 56" W. 136.29 feet;
- 4) N. 45° 09' 35" W. 94.89 feet;
- 5) N. 52° 04' 18" W. 56.60 feet

to a point in the branch, corner to Motley Rentals (DB 189, P. 701);

Thence leaving the branch and with the line of Motley Rentals (Car Wash) N. 34° 27' 13" E. 4.09 feet to a "rebar with 1-3/4" cap marked "Property Corner, M. R. Stull L.S. 2993" (set this survey) at a steel fence post (found) in Motley line; thence continuing the same line with Motley N. 34° 27' 13" E. 52.70 feet to a "rebar with 1-3/4" cap marked "Property Corner, M. R. Stull L.S. 2993" (set this survey) in Motley's line at the Southwest corner of Hankins (DB 112, P. 287); thence with Hankins South line S. 49° 44' 34" E. 105.42 feet to a "rebar with 13/4" cap marked "Property Corner, M. R. Stull L.S. 2993" (set this survey) at the back corner of Hankins Garage Building (Hankins Southeast Property corner); thence with Hankins' East property line N. 33° 18' 03" E. 100.14 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.085 acres as surveyed by M. R. (Randy) Stull, P.L.S. 2993.

Being the same real property acquired by Raymond Vance and wife, Angela Vance, by Deed from Frontier Housing, Inc., dated May 18, 2004, of record in Deed Book 198, Page 325, Morgan County Clerk's Office.

The aforementioned real estate can not be divided without materially impairing its value and shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

In the event that the successful bidder is the Plaintiff to this action, which has been adjudged to have a lien on that particular tract or parcel of real or personal property bid upon, then and in that event, said party shall not be required to make any cash deposit or bond.

If any purchaser at said sale shall fail to immediately make cash payment or execute a bond, then the Commissioner shall declare the next highest bidder the purchaser of the real estate.

Upon default of payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days, the Master Commissioner shall immediately resell the property upon the same terms and conditions set out herein upon proper legal notice. The ten percent (10%) of purchase price paid to the Master Commissioner shall be used to pay the costs of the sale which the purchaser failed to complete.

The hereinabove described real property shall be sold free and clear of the claims, interests, liens and encumbrances of all parties herein, except restrictions and easements appearing of record, in the Morgan County Court Clerk's Office.

The risk of loss for the subject property shall pass to the purchaser on the date of sale. Possession of the premises shall pass to the purchaser upon payment of the purchase price and delivery of deed.

The purchaser shall be required to purchase fire and extended coverage insurance on any improvements to the real property, from the date of sale until the purchase price is paid in full to the extent of the Court-appraised value of the improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, with a loss clause payable to the Master Commissioner of the Morgan Circuit Court or the Plaintiff herein.

The Defendants, their agents, employees, successors or assigns shall vacate the mortgaged premises immediately upon the confirmation of the Master Commissioner's Sale.

The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes assessed such property for the year 2012 and all subsequent years. This property shall be sold subject to any ad valorem and real property taxes not delinquent as of the date of sale. The attorney of record must furnish the Master Commissioner with a statement that there are no unpaid County and City delinquent taxes or tax liens, and assignments of any such liens, against the property. This statement may be incorporated in the Motion/Proposed Order confirming the Master Commissioner's Report of Sale and directing delivery of deed and disbursement of funds held in escrow for said sale. Upon the receipt of said statement, the Master Commissioner shall pay any delinquent property taxes or tax liens for all years prior to the year of the sale.

Honorable Robert L. Caummisar  
Master Commissioner  
Morgan Circuit Court  
301 West Main Street  
Grayson, Kentucky 41143  
C-2-23-3t  
Pub. Feb. 23, Mar. 1, Mar. 8

Want Ads Get Results!

3-County Coverage Means A Classified Ad In The Licking Valley Courier Carries A BIG PUNCH!

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER BLANK

40¢  
PER WORD  
\$4.00 MINIMUM

3-COUNTY AD COVERAGE IN THE  
LICKING VALLEY COURIER (MORGAN CO.)  
WOLFE COUNTY NEWS AND  
ELLIOTT COUNTY NEWS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

Write your classified/want ad as you want it to appear in the paper:

(Phone number counts as one word)

No. of wordsAmount

Send with payment to:  
THE LICKING VALLEY COURIER  
P.O. Box 187 - West Liberty, KY 41472

From:

AddressPhone

Over 9,000 Paid Circulation!



# 3,600 Morgan County dwellings damaged

**By Earl Kinner**

The tornadoes that swept through Kentucky on the evening of March 3 were part of a storm system that killed 40 people across a dozen states. Twenty-three died in Kentucky, including at least six in Morgan County, where West Liberty, the county seat, took a direct hit that demolished most of the town of 2,000 people.

With a wind speed of 140 miles per hour, the EF-3 tornado slammed into West Liberty about 6:15 p.m., demolishing everything in its path—residences, churches, businesses—and causing widespread damage to structures and other property along its peripheries. The town’s entire downtown business district was reduced to rubble. Wrecked were the city hall and police station, the county office building and state government offices. The ARH Hospital was seriously damaged, causing patients to be evacuated (the emergency room did remain open, however).

In its nearly 40-mile track across Morgan County, the tornado left a mile-wide swath of death and destruction in the communities where it touched down: Ezel, Mize, Grassy Creek, Woodsbend, Liberty Road, Harper Branch, Cow Branch, other communities along Elk Fork and Williams Creek and on Middle Fork.

At least four people were killed in the Grassy Creek-Woodsbend area. The state juvenile treatment center and Forestry Service tree nursery were severely damaged, as well as many residences.

After exiting West Liberty, the tornado roared eastward, demolishing homes and barns, including several residences along Ky. 172 in the Moon-Cindas Creek communities, and on Pelfrey Fork of Williams Creek, where one fatality was recorded.

Leaving Morgan County, the system continued into Lawrence, Johnson and Magoffin Counties. Salyersville, the Magoffin County seat, sustained heavy damage to several businesses, churches and schools.

The storm left two people dead in Menifee County and two each in Johnson and Lawrence.

After the tornado had passed through West Liberty, stunned survivors emerging from their shattered homes and businesses were greeted with an eerie few moments of complete silence, broken soon after by the shouts of search and rescue teams spreading through the community. As the enormity of the destruction began to register, emergency services personnel were joined by more and more volunteers who rushed to help rescue trapped residents from their crumpled homes and vehicles and assisted survivors through the debris-filled streets in heavy rain to emergency shelters set up at City Hall and the county health department building. The survivors were eventually loaded onto buses, provided by the county school system, and evacuated to hastily-established Red Cross shelters in Elliott and other nearby counties.

Meanwhile, the injured and others requiring medical attention were being transported by ambulance to hospitals in Rowan and other counties from triage stations set up on Main Street and other locations.

The tornado knocked out all electric and telephone lines, leaving West Liberty and surrounding communities without power and shutting off all phone communications links in and out of Morgan County.

With the town’s natural gas supply shut off by city firemen in the tornado’s immediate aftermath, West Liberty was left without heat, as well.

Even as the first survivors were being assembled from the wreckage, state police and other law enforcement personnel directed to the scene from many areas began cordoning off the town, barring entrance to all but emergency personnel while search and rescue continued.

The town remained on lockdown Saturday while house-to-house searches continued, and to facilitate street clearing for construction crews who

arrived Sunday to begin setting poles and stringing wire in a massive effort to restore power and communications links.

Within an hour after the disaster, equipment sent by neighboring county and city governments began arriving to help with street and road clearing. Timber damage was intensive in all areas touched by the tornado, blocking rural roads.

Disaster officials reported Tuesday that 3,600 Morgan County dwellings were structurally damaged by the tornado.

West Liberty residents and business owners were allowed clearance to return on Sunday to assess their loss and salvage belongings. Only emergency personnel were allowed into the downtown area Monday, because of hazardous conditions following a five-inch snowfall.

Peyton’s Pharmacy was able to reopen Monday and other businesses announced plans to resume operations, including Commercial Bank, whose Main Street building sustained massive damage. The bank planned to reopen this Friday in a mobile unit at Index.

Also on Monday, the state social services and food stamp office reopened in the old elementary school at Wrigley.

Some electric power had been returned by late Monday and some telephones were also back on line.

While clearing away the mountains of rubble and debris and rebuilding will be a long and difficult task, Gov. Steve Beshear, who visited West Liberty Saturday, pledged state support for the effort.

The governor called the devastation “the worst I’ve ever seen,” and after conferring with city and county leaders, said, “They want to rebuild their town and we’re going to help them.”

The governor included the town and county in a disaster declaration for Kentucky’s counties ravaged by the tornado outbreak, which the National Weather Service said was on of the most extensive and damaging on record.



**Velma Dulen of West Liberty was choked with tears of joy when volunteers helped her find this group photo of her grandchildren amid the wreckage of her home after Friday’s tornado. (Photo by John Flavell, Lexington Herald-Leader)**

## Let’s all stand strong

“A town is not its buildings—but the PEOPLE in it. Those buildings are gone, but the PEOPLE are still standing. WE are West Liberty. WE are Morgan County, and our home is still the greatest place in the world. When the smoke clears, we WILL rebuild our town. Today we are all friends and neighbors no matter where we may be scattered. Let’s all stand strong to help others and get this county back on its feet. I LOVE MORGAN COUNTY AND I LOVE YOU ALL.”—LVC Reporter/Columnist Miranda M. Cantrell (3/4/12)

## Morgan schools set to reopen doors March 19

As the entire state and county watched in horror as the images of Friday’s deadly, devastating tornadoes filled their television screens, the uncompromising resiliency of an entire community has been put on display. Thanks to the monumental efforts of a myriad of agencies, organizations, and individuals, the slow process of rebuilding is in full swing. In a matter of minutes, utility crews sprang into action. Bank and financial services are now in place. State and federal agencies relocated and immediately began providing services.

And in the midst of the surrounding chaos, Morgan County Schools began the challenging work of restoring services to one of Morgan County’s most valuable resources: the education of its students.

This storm literally affected every life in our county. Every section of our infrastructure was dealt a severe blow, and our school facilities and resources are no exception. However, due to the outpouring of help that has poured into our communities from around the nation, school operations are slowly beginning to take shape. While the entire community has needed time to clean up and cope with the devastation, the initial steps are in place to reopen our schools when the community has had some time to heal.

The tentative date to reopen schools is set for Monday, March 19. West Liberty Elementary and the Morgan County Board of Education building sustained severe damage. Both WLES and Central Office will now be located in the former Boneal Building on University Drive in Index. Thanks to the generous and amazing resources and talents of God’s Pit Crew from Danville, Va., a temporary school and office complex are being built.

Though our students and parents are hurting due to the tremendous losses from the March 2 tornadoes, schools provide students with a degree of normalcy and a routine that will help them cope with this tragedy. In addition, schools will allow counselors to be on hand to help students better deal with their feelings of loss, fear and uncertainty about the future. Likewise, our schools can help provide the entire community with the opportunity to locate students and families so that the best, most effective services can be provided to everyone in the most efficient means possible.

All Morgan County Board of Education employees are to report to the Morgan County High School cafeteria Wednesday, March 14, at 9 a.m. Counselors who specialize in dealing with disasters such as ours will be on hand to provide personal counseling to staff members, as well as to provide professional training on how Morgan County Schools staff members can best help student cope with this tragedy.

Central Office has temporarily been relocated to Morgan Central Elementary. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Board of Education at **606-743-8002**.



**Lula Pecco, bottom left, works with volunteers at the Community Soup Kitchen in Morehead to prepare hot meals for tornado victims and emergency workers in Morgan, Menifee and Magoffin counties. (Photo by Adam Hinton)**



# EF-3 tornado brings death, destruction to Morgan County

**By KEITH KAPPES**  
**The Morehead News**  
A raging tornado with winds estimated at 140 miles per hour unleashed its fury on West Liberty last Friday evening, leaving a shattered community and six known deaths in its wake.

It was among three killer tornadoes that also struck Laurel, Menifee, Magoffin, Kenton and Johnson counties, said to be the worst outbreak in Kentucky in 25 years.

The tornado ravaged both sides of West Liberty’s two primary thoroughfares, Main Street and Prestonsburg Street, as well as side streets like Riverside Drive, Glenn Avenue and Branch Street.

Scores of homes lost roofs and windows with many collapsing into piles of rubble, strewn with scraps of insulation and mounds of furniture, clothing and other personal belongings.

Public buildings and businesses were hard hit, especially West Liberty City Hall, the Morgan County Courthouse, Commercial Bank, the yet-to-be-completed Morgan County Judicial Center, and the old high school building.

Electricity and telephone services, including Internet, were lost immediately, leaving the city in the dark and unable to communicate with the outside.

Kentucky State Police troopers and Army National Guard soldiers sealed off the town about 9 p.m. Friday. Access was tightly controlled to prevent looting and to give emer-

gency workers room to maneuver on streets littered with debris.

Death and damage were not confined to the city limits as four persons died in rural Morgan County.

As of Sunday night, the list of victims had not been made public. A seventh person was said to have died over the weekend but that death was not storm-related.

An estimated 75 persons were injured and had to be evacuated to hospitals in Morehead and Mt. Sterling after the Morgan County ARH Hospital lost part of its roof and second floor windows. The hospital’s clinic, home care store, home health agency and other ARH services sustained significant damage.

Exterior doors were torn off their hinges and cars were demolished in the parking lot.

However, no patients or staff members were injured during the storm. All patients were transferred Friday night to other medical facilities in neighboring counties.

The hospital’s emergency room remained open to treat the injured but is not admitting patients. Patients requiring hospitalization are being sent to other facilities.

It was reported Sunday afternoon that the hospital roof had been replaced in a period of about 24 hours.

Police agencies, emergency medical units and various state agencies streamed into West Liberty Friday night and Saturday to response to calls

for help.

The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management established an operations center in the Commercial Bank parking lot.

Gov. Steve Beshear visited West Liberty on Saturday morning, accompanied by Adjutant General Ed Tonini, State Sen. Robert Stivers and State Rep. John Will Stacy.

The governor told reporters and local officials that it was the worst damage he had ever seen in a single community and that the state’s resources were being made available.

“It looked like a bomb had been dropped in the middle of town,” Beshear said. “It was a war zone.”

The next day saw the governor announce that he has requested a federal disaster declaration that will start the process of bringing federal aid into Kentucky’s storm-struck counties.

Beshear confirmed that the tornadoes had caused 23 fatalities with more than 300 persons injured.

“I’m heartbroken by the power and destruction these tornadoes brought to our homes and our businesses and for the families who are mourning the loss of loved ones,” he said.

In his letter to President Barack Obama requesting federal help, Beshear said a total of 48 Kentucky counties had suffered damages from Friday’s storms.

The Kentucky Public Service Commission said nearly 20,000 customers were without power.

The governor said National Guard troops and local rescue teams had completed search and rescue missions in each of the affected counties on Saturday night and that clean-up, recovery and assessment operations would begin.

Nearly 400 National Guard soldiers have been mobilized throughout the state to assist with security, traffic control and other needs.

Beshear activated a temporary executive order to prevent price gouging by vendors of gas and necessities and another order which will allow people to refill necessary, non-narcotic medications at pharmacies without consulting a doctor for 30 days.

He said the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions was working with storm-damaged banks in West Liberty to make sure residents had access to their money.

Morgan County Judge-Executive Tim Conley told an outdoor press briefing on Sunday evening that local banks would be open for business on Monday, March 5, and that county schools hopefully would reopen the following Monday.

“We are determined to get our lives back to normal as soon as we can and to overcome what has happened to all of us,” Conley said. “Our people are strong and we will rebuild this city and this county.”

West Liberty Mayor Jim Rupe said the city building would be repaired and returned

to service after inspectors said it was structurally sound.

Morgan County School Supt. Deatrah Barnett said Sunday that the district’s central office building and West Liberty Elementary School had sustained heavy damage and would not be reopened.

The school had been scheduled to close when a new facility, now in the process of being advertised for construction bids, is finished. It had an enrollment of nearly 300.

Central office personnel will work in other buildings until further notice, Barnett said. A plan for housing the displaced elementary students is being developed.

Morehead State University at West Liberty was not damaged in the storm but is closed until further notice because of the lack of utility service.

As of Monday morning, no official announcement has been issued concerning a timetable for hauling away the mountain of storm debris.

Anthony Hatton, director of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management, said Monday that state environmental inspectors have been in West Liberty since Saturday and that he expects no problems with compliance with state and federal laws on disposal of waste materials.

Weather officials said Sunday that the tornado which struck Morgan and Menifee counties was rated as an EF-3 with a top estimated wind speed of 140 miles per hour and a damage track 34 miles long.

The tornado that hit rural areas on Wednesday was an EF-2, officials said.

Anyone trying to get in touch with family or friends in Morgan County can register the person’s name on the Web sites of the American Red Cross or Kentucky Emergency Management.

Teams from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) arrived in Kentucky on Sunday and were scheduled to begin assessing damages on Monday.

In presidentially-declared disaster areas, FEMA is authorized to award cash grants to private homeowners and low-interest loans to businesses. Local governments also can qualify for grants to repair or replace public property.

When Morgan County is declared a federal disaster area, FEMA officials will open an office and accept applications for aid.

In view of the substantial loss of housing in the West Liberty area, FEMA also could make temporary housing available with mobile homes.

U. S. Sen. Mitch McConnell visited West Liberty on Sunday morning to tell local officials that the federal government would be a partner in the recovery of Morgan County.

The aftermath of the tornado attracted dozens of news media organizations, including CNN and The Weather Channel.

**Keith Kappes can be reached at [kkappes@themorehead-news.com](mailto:kkappes@themorehead-news.com) or by telephone at 784-4116.**



Photo by Charles Bertram/Staff HERALD-LEADER

**Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief team volunteers held hands as they held a group prayer near their cooking trailer in West Liberty, Ky., Tuesday, March 6. Morgan County suffered five fatalities and significant damage as numerous tornadoes moved across Kentucky last Friday.**



Photo by Tom Eblen | teblen@herald-leader.com

**The marble statue of a doughboy lies in pieces at the foot of the World War I memorial outside the century-old Morgan County Courthouse on Tuesday in tornado-damaged West Liberty.**

## Visitation canceled at Eastern Ky. Correctional Complex

Due to the severe tornado damage in the Morgan County area and the mass influx of emergency vehicles and rescue workers, inmate visitation at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex has been canceled until further notice.

The department realizes visitation is an important part of an inmate’s rehabilitation; however, the cancellation is necessary at this time to ensure additional traffic in the area does not hinder the rescue and relief efforts under way in the community, a release said.

The department will announce on its Web site when visitation will resume. The DOC Web site address is [www.corrections.ky.gov](http://www.corrections.ky.gov).

## Somerset woman who died in closet is Kentucky’s 23rd storm fatality

**By Valarie Honeycutt Spears—[vhoneycutt@herald-leader.com](mailto:vhoneycutt@herald-leader.com)**

The death toll in Kentucky from last week’s storms increased to 23 Wednesday after state officials learned of a Somerset woman who died in her closet while taking shelter from the severe weather. Helen Placke, 74, was found Monday, trapped in the closet at her home on Hamilton Avenue, Pulaski County Coroner Richard New said.

The inside doorknob of the closet had come off, and when Placke tried to put it back in, the outside knob came off and she could not open the door, New said.

Placke is thought to have died sometime Sunday, after spending hours trapped in the closet without water or her heart medicine, he said.

The death total now includes one death in Pulaski, three deaths in Menifee, six in Morgan County, two in Lawrence County, two in Johnson County, five in Laurel County and four in Kenton County, Kentucky Army National Guard Specialist Andrew Easley said.

Meanwhile, Gov. Steve Beshear and Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson toured several tornado-ravaged areas of the state Wednesday for a second time. Beshear was scheduled to make stops in Frenchburg, West Liberty and East Bernstadt, and Abramsom was scheduled to visit rural communities in Johnson and Lawrence counties.

In Magoffin County, where a tornado destroyed dozens of buildings in Salyersville, officials said residents should direct all non-emergency requests for assistance to the Tornado Recovery Information Hotline at **859-935-1636**. Requests also can be e-mailed to **[magoffintornadorecovery@gmail.com](mailto:magoffintornadorecovery@gmail.com)**, according to the Magoffin County Emergency Operations Center.

In addition, Magoffin authorities are seeking volunteers to aid with the cleanup and relief effort. To volunteer, use the tornado recovery hotline or e-mail address.

In Lexington, the Salvation Army said it is conducting a donation drive at Fayette Mall through Saturday to collect items for those affected by the tornadoes.

Based on requests, the following new and unused items for men, women and children will be accepted:

- Underwear and Socks
- Personal care items
- Diapers
- Clean-up materials (Brooms, Buckets, Mops, Cleaning Solutions, Trash bags and Work Gloves)
- Towels, Washcloths, Blankets and Pillows
- Coloring books and crayons

Items can be dropped off in the area in front of Boardwalk Treats near the Dillard’s store.

The Salvation Army has secured a large storage space and will deliver items as needed to the effected areas.

The Salvation Army also is accepting monetary donations. You may donate \$10 by texting the word “STORM” to 80888 or make a contribution at **[www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org)**. Checks may be mailed to The Salvation Army Tornado Relief Fund, 736 W. Main Street, Lexington, Ky., 40508.

**Valarie Honeycutt Spears: 859-231-3409. Twitter: @vhspears.**



# Surveying the damage



Pictured above are the homes of Greg and Karen Kinner, which remains partially intact, and the ruins of Earl Kinner's home, which was completely destroyed. The Kinnors lived across the street from the Licking Valley Courier office. At right, above, is the Rite Aid building on Prestonsburg Street, which sustained heavy damage. The Courier office is pictured at right. The building was severely damaged on the back side.



Pictured above is the lower end of Prestonsburg Street. The building that houses Lykins' Pawn, Touch of Class beauty shop and Curves was extensively damaged.



The flag still flew above West Liberty as utility crews worked frantically to restore electricity, telephone, water, sewer and gas services to areas throughout Morgan County.

## Morgan County Tornado Disaster Relief Fund

This money will be used in Morgan County to help our community recover from this horrible tragedy. Our citizens are strong and resilient and we are committed to helping our people rebuild.

## Monetary donations should be made payable to:

Morgan County Christian Social Services

Please put "MC Tornado Disaster Relief Fund"  
in the memo of your check.

## Please mail payments to:

Bank of the Mountains

c/o: MC Tornado Disaster Relief Fund

P.O. Box 309

West Liberty, KY 41472

For more information or to donate online,  
visit us online at

[www.bankofthemountains.com](http://www.bankofthemountains.com)

For more information, call (606)743-3141

**Bank of the Mountains**

A Real  
Community  
Bank®





At left is a closer view of the damage to the building that houses Lykins' Pawn Shop, Touch of Class beauty shop and Curves, and the debris surrounding it. In the background are utility crews which have worked non-stop since March 2 disaster.



Pictured above is the Valero service station next to the Food Court building.



A closeup view of the ruins of the Greg and Karen Kinner home at the intersection of Prestonsburg Street and Riverside Drive.



# Commercial Bank Is Open For Business And Eager To Serve Your Banking Needs

Commercial Bank is now open and fully functional at two locations: The 1st floor of the Enterprise Center, and a mobile unit at the old Dairy Chair. We are standing ready to serve your banking needs at these locations and are accepting deposits, transferring funds, cashing checks, and making loans. Account statements are fully updated and all processes are complete and up to date. ATM and Debit cards are also working and can be used at our two available ATM locations - one at the hospital and another located at Double J Gas Station. We appreciate your patience as we continue to be of service to our community during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers remain with those affected by this disaster.

*Commercial Bank is now accepting donations for the Morgan County Disaster Relief Fund.*



550 Main Street • West Liberty, KY • 606.743-3195 • [www.commercialbankky.com](http://www.commercialbankky.com)

*Where Friendliness Prevails*

